

July 22, 2002

Planning, Programs, and  
Project Management Division  
Project Management Branch

Mr. Billy Orr  
Chairman  
Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood  
and Drainage Control District  
P.O. Box 320069  
Flowood, Mississippi 39232-0069

Dear Mr. Orr:

I refer to your letter of June 21, 2002, concerning Pearl River Basin flood control. The discussions and meetings with all entities over the past 3 years have been extremely valuable and allowed a full exchange of ideas.

Since 1997, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has consistently stated that we would not be able to participate in the LeFleur Lakes plan (formerly the Two Lakes Plan) due to economic and environmental concerns. Our letter of January 19, 2001, to various elected officials in Rankin and Hinds Counties restated this position (enclosure 1). We cannot concur with your request to proceed with a study of only the LeFleur Lakes concept. Such a study, which would exclude the evaluation of all alternatives, would not meet Corps criteria or comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. Your desired approach would not result in a positive recommendation by the Corps for implementation of a water resources plan of improvement.

1165-2100- Pearl River W&D

The Vicksburg District can only proceed with a cost-shared study directed toward evaluating all feasible alternatives to include a plan incorporating aspects of a levee plan and the LeFleur Lakes concept. These investigations would ensure that any recommended alternative would be economically feasible and environmentally sustainable. We will be happy to continue to work with the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District and others to develop and negotiate the Project Management Plan for a study and will allow the non-Federal sponsor(s) to perform appropriate work-in-kind. I assure you that we understand the need to maintain local support for any water resources plan of improvement and we can develop a public involvement plan to assist in the formulation and development of flood control alternatives and the assessment of public support for the plans identified. However, if the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District cannot agree to this course of action, we will be required to terminate our efforts.

We are providing Mr. Mike Davis, Executive Vice President, Pearl River Basin Development District, a copy of this letter.

If you have any questions concerning this matter or if you need additional information, please contact me (telephone (601) 631-7933) or Mr. Gary Walker of my staff (telephone (601) 631-5469).

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Kamien, P.E.  
Deputy for Programs and  
Project Management

Enclosure

*but*  
WALKER/TWD/5469  
CEMVK-PP-D

Copies Furnished: (w/enclosure)

Mr. Mike Davis  
Executive Vice President  
Pearl River Basin Development  
District  
P.O. Box 5332  
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